

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TELEPHONE CALLS
November 27, 1958

The President called the Secretary of State. The President said until John came down this morning he had not known that there had been a working level paper from the British which said in effect that they were ready to say to the Russians "we will do what you want." He was also astonished at Courve de Murville's message. The Secretary said he did not yet know what gave as a result of the de Gaulle - Adenauer meeting yesterday. He also said that the working level paper had now been repudiated. Both he and the President agreed that Macmillan's statement had been fine.

The Secretary told the President about a note that was delivered in Moscow this morning. Translation is not available but from the wires it seems to say there will be no change for six months, but during that six months negotiations as to status should take place. They propose to make Berlin a Free City under United Nations auspices -- will withdraw all forces from Berlin. If an agreement not reached at the end of six months, they will go ahead with their program.

The President said if the city was made a "Free City" there must be an avenue to it also under the jurisdiction of the UN. He indicated that somewhere along the line we have to find a way to say that we are going to do what we want to do.

He said that he had been worrying late at night as to what the eventual fate of Berlin would be. He said that in the days when Berlin was divided, when he was not a politician, that he had done his best to make the Americans and British see what a trouble the thing was going to be -- but that the political leaders, naming Roosevelt and Churchill had said, "Oh, we can get along with Uncle Joe." He said at the time he knew better and that everything he had feared had come to pass.

Dulles said that probably decision could wait until Sunday. The President urged a four-power conference on subject.

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The President said he wouldn't mind asking the Chancellor now exactly what does he see as to way to get along. He said the Germans were trying to push the responsibility on to the British. He said he would like to say to Adenauer that he has got to increase his Army and devote more of his revenues to it.

Dulles asked if the President had seen text of letter to Adenauer; he had.

They talked a little about Sunday meeting.

